I. *A Letter from Mr* Ralph Thoresby, *F. R. S. to Dr* Hans Sloane, *R. S. Secr. concerning ſome* Roman *Inſcriptions found at* York, *proving that the Ninth Legion ſome time reſided there.*

BY your very kind Letter I perceive how much I am obliged to the Society for ſo candid a reception of my poor Endeavours, which encourages me to tranſmit two *Roman* Inſcriptions found at *York*, one very lately, the other ſeveral years ago, but no where yet taken notice of, tho it hath this very remarkable, That it is an undeniable Argument that the *Ninth* Legion was not only in *Britain*, which is rarely taken notice of, but that it reſided at *York*; which was heretofore unknown. It is a Funeral Monument, whereupon, under the Statue (in *Baſſe-relieve*) of the Standard-bearer of the 9th Legion, is this Inſcription.

L DVCCIVS
* Lubens voluit *L. VOT. RVFI
-NVS. VIEN
SIGNF. LEG. VIIII.
AN. XXIIX.
Hic ſitus eſt. H. S. E.

This Monument was found in *Trinity-yard* in *Micklegate* at *York*, and was happily reſcued by my Honoured Friend *Dr Bryan Fairfax*, from the brutiſh Workmen, who

The Royal Society is collaborating with JSTOR to digitize, preserve, and extend access to *Philosophical Transactions (1683-1775)*. www.jstor.org

who had broke it in the middle, and were going to make uſe of it for two *Throughs*, as they call them, in the Wall; but by that worthy Gentlemans direction it was placed upright, with the Inſcription outwards. That this 9th Legion was in *Britain* in *Galba*'s time, and that it was alſo *Hiſpanienſis*, appears from the very Learned Sir *Henry Savile*'s Notes at the end of his Edition of *Tacitus*; but that it, as well as the VIth and the XXth, was alſo called *Victrix*, or that it reſided at *York*, has not been obſerved before; and yet both are evident from this Inſcription upon a *Roman* Brick found there.

LEG. IX. VIC.

This is alſo an Argument of the Peace theſe Parts enjoyed at that time, (poſſibly the latter end of *Severus*'s Reign,) making Bricks, caſting up Highways, *&c.* being the uſual employment of Souldiers at ſuch vacancies. The former Inſcription is now removed to the Gardens of Sir *John Goodricks* at *Ribſton*; the latter is in my poſſeſſion.

Sir *Hen. Savile* was of opinion that this *Nona Hiſpanienſis* in *Britannia* was one of thoſe eſtabliſhed by *Tiberius*, *Caius*, or *Claudius*, or peradventure in the later times of *Auguſtus*; but however that it was certainly here in *Nero*'s Reign, and that *Petus Cerealis* was then Lieutenant thereof is indiſputably evident from *Tacitus*, (*lib.* 14. *cap.* 10.) who gives a lamentable account of the ſlaughter of ſeventy thouſand Citizens and Confederates, by the enraged *Boudicea*, in which number was all the *Foot* of this ninth Legion: *Cerealis* with the Horſe hardly eſcaping. I ſuppoſe it needleſs to add, that this Number is frequently by the *Romans* writ VIII as well as IX; for one that is but competently vers'd in their Coins or Inſcriptions, cannot but have obſerved inſtances of both kinds; however, to prevent all miſtakes, (it being near

ten

ten years ſince I ſaw this Monument) the Learned and Ingenious *Roger Gale*, Eſq; was ſo kind as to ſend me a new Tranſcript; and I have by me alſo a third, lately taken by a grave Divine; all which agree that it is the IXth Legion, which is alſo confirm'd by the other Inſcription upon the Brick, which was but lately found. I ſhall only add what an Ingenious Gentleman of *Oxford* writes, becauſe it relates to an Author I have not the opportunity to conſult here, but is poſſibly in your Curious Library. "I am mightily pleaſed with the Inſcriptions "you ſent me relating to the 9th Legion, there being "now no room to doubt about the place of Reſidence, a "thing which was unknown before; and for that reaſon, "thoſe who have written about the *Roman* Legions have "ſaid nothing about this, but leave us quite in the dark; "only *Urſatus* [in his Book *de Notis Rom.*] does remark, "that it muſt be ſomewhere in *Britain*, becauſe *Tacitus* "tells us, that when the Colony at *Camalodunum* was de-"ſtroyed by *Boadicia*, *Pætilius Cerealis*, Legate of the IXth "Legion, came to their aſſiſtance; but yet he makes no "mention of its being ſtiled *Victrix*. This I receiv'd from Mr *Tho. Hearne* of *Edmund Hall*, from whom is expected a curious Edition of *Livy*.

Your Moſt Obliged and Obedient Servant,

Ralph Thoresby.